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accuses me of neglecting absolutely necessary factors in the investigation.

For all practical purposes we may deny at once the fundamental assumption on which the doctrine of probabilities is applied to the problem. That all things are equally possible can not be true of alliteration, since number of words beginning with each initial, and especially choice of words as to meaning and context insuperably stand in the way. It was, indeed, only because the reasoning of Frucht had been adopted by such an accurate scholar as Sievers, that it seemed worth while to treat it seriously and expose its fallacy in various ways. On this account alone I undertook to show the *reductio ad absurdum* by examining the initial of the fourth stressed syllable in other cases than the one in dispute. If chance, as Frucht assumed, affected the fourth syllable in the alliterative line, it must have affected the same syllable in every other line, and an examination of the inevitable results of this assumption is not "inapplicable because it introduces an entirely different kind of reasoning." Indeed, Professor Lewis shows that he does not consider it inapplicable, by arguing later against my statistics as merely showing "runs of luck." The evident inconsistency of the two positions may be passed over, but it remains with Professor Lewis to prove his assertion regarding the latter. The examples were selected at random and in sufficient numbers to satisfy myself, and Professor Lewis's assertion, unsupported by facts, does not disturb me. When he presents such facts it will be time enough to ask that he establish his position regarding the applicability of the theory of probabilities to such a problem, by proving that mere chance accounts for the initials of words in poetry or any other form of speech. Before that is done references to the throwing of dice are of no value, unless serving to illustrate the frequently fatal recourse to the argument from analogy.

OLIVER FARRAR EMERSON.

Western Reserve University.

### PETSCHAFT.

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES,

SIRS:—In his book "The Practical Study of

Languages," p. 110, Sweet says of this word and of "Hornung": "To the present day I cannot remember having met with either of them in any Modern German book, still less of ever having heard them in conversation." This is an extraordinary statement. "Petschaft" occurs in Heine's "Reisebilder," a very popular text. See Heine's Werke, Hamburg, 1867, Vol. i, p. 26. As to its being used in the spoken language, I can testify that it is in common use in my home, Vilsen in the province of Hanover.

H. C. G. BRANDT.

Hamilton College.

### LYCIDAS 113 ff.

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES,

SIRS:—A parallel to Milton's invective against the clergy occurs in Bale's characterization of John Capgrave (*Script. Illus.*, p. 582, translated):

"It was his wont to thunder against the wanton and arbitrary acts of prelates who enlarged the borders of their garments beyond measure, catching at the favor of the ignorant herd; not shepherds, but hirelings, who leave the sheep to the wolves, caring only for the milk and fleece; robbers of their country and evil workers, to whom truth is a burden, justice a thing to scorn, and cruelty a delight."

ALBERT S. COOK.

Yale University.

### OBITUARY.

FITZEDWARD HALL,  
C.E., M.A., D.C.L., LL.D.

FITZEDWARD HALL was born at Troy, N. Y., March 21, 1825, and died at Marlesford, England, February 1, 1901. He attended schools at Troy, Walpole, N. H., and Poughkeepsie, and took his first degree in 1842 at the Rensselaer Polytechnic. Joining the Harvard class of 1846, he had for associates Geo. F. Hoar, C. E. Norton, F. J. Child, Charles Short, G. M. Lane, and W. T. Harris. A

1 Also in Thuringia. H. K. S.

family exigency, by which he missed commencement but not graduation, took him to India, where he determined to convert an embarrassing delay into intellectual profit, and applied his marked tastes and aptitudes to the study of the native languages. After some teaching and newspaper-writing in Calcutta, he was, in 1850, appointed to a Professorship in the Government College at Benares, and afterwards filled different Inspectorships of Public Instruction. During the Sepoy Rebellion, he had some trying experiences in military service, but proved fully equal to them. In 1860, Oxford made him D. C. L. He had then written fluently in the several local tongues, as well as copiously in English; he had prepared not only school-books but editions of Sanskrit and Hindi authors and commentaries that still command the deference of Orientalists; he had translated from the languages and into them, and from one to another of them; he had collected rare manuscripts, which, with early issues of his books, he subsequently presented to Harvard; he had deciphered inscriptions, discovered lost literature, and lectured on Indian philosophy and civilization. In English, his interest and his extended reading had begun while he was a boy; at Harvard, he was quick at locating selections from English literature, had published translations from Modern Languages, including Romaic, and had made some progress in collecting notes on English usage; in India he published his *Lauder's Ane Compendious and Breve Tractate, etc.*, and his *Sir David Lyndesay's Works*. In 1862, he became resident professor of Sanskrit and Indian Jurisprudence in King's College, London, and Librarian of the East India Office; and, from 1854 to his death, he served as Examiner in the subjects of his special studies to the Civil Service Commissioner, having meanwhile removed to the Suffolk village of Marlesford, whence came the books and articles by which he is distinctively known to students of English and to some general readers. In 1895, he was made LL.D. by his Alma Mater.

The list of Dr. Hall's books is not long; of such work by one man, of his kind and its kind, the list could not be long; it is, however,

almost without parallel in the material and the personality it represents—the exhaustive service of a devotee without a rival in his life or a successor at his death. *Recent Exemplifications of False Philology* appeared in 1872; *Modern English*, in 1873, *On English Adjectives in-Able, with Especial Reference to Reliable*, in 1877; *Doctor Indoctus*, in 1880; *A Letter to the Editor of The Nation relative to Certain Slanders of the New York Evening Post*, in 1881; *Two Trifles: 1 A Rejoinder; 11 Scientist, with a Preamble*, in 1895. His literary activity, however, is very poorly indicated by this enumeration; he was all his life a correspondent of literary periodicals; and his special letters on questions of English philology, published in the *Academy*, *Nineteenth Century*, *Spectator*, *Statesman*, *Nation*, *Dial*, *American Journal of Philology*, *MOD. LANG. NOTES*, and elsewhere, would make several volumes. More recently, the growing demands of *The New English Dictionary* and *The English Dialect Dictionary*, not to speak of his advancing years, necessarily reduced his direct and personal utterances; and he gratuitously diverted to those great undertakings the labors and the stores of which he recognized them as worthy; no doubt, too, he realized the privilege of thus permanently presenting to the world what he could not then hope otherwise to make so widely accessible. His contributions to these lexicons were from the first incomparable. Dr. Murray is reported to have said that, when needed information or authority could nowhere else be obtained, it was certain to be offered by Dr. Hall; and Dr. Hall's special collection of unrecorded peculiarities in the Suffolk dialect greatly exceed those previously recorded. Possibly, the shades of some American lexicographers are now lamenting the opportunities they lost in the flesh.

Dr. Hall's books are reports of English expression, discussions of English usage under the principles of linguistic life and growth, and exposures of imposture in English philology—these several aspects being based upon an extent of reading, an absorption of characteristics, an observation of facts, a comprehensiveness of memory, an untiring method of registration and verification, and a readi-

ness of application, that are without precedent in the prosecution of grammatical and lexical detail. Dr. Hall's unanswerable correction of pretentious error, while in reality only incidental, so far as individuals were concerned, was too frequently perverted into his main purpose; and he was called captious and unpatriotic, if not absolutely vindictive, by those who knew nothing of his laborious work in establishing grounds for exact criticism in English, too many professed Anglicists being included in the number. Dr. Hall was one of the kindest of men; but he had too high a reverence for his charge to affect toleration for the dangerous influences of plausible presumption. To say that he had read everything in English of the last five hundred years would be absolutely an exaggeration, but not so relatively to the ordinary fashion of estimates; and the margin by which he fell short of such complete achievement is utterly insignificant by the side of that vast excess by which he surpassed what any one man might be expected to do in a lifetime much freer than his from other exactions. A glance at Dr. Hall's statistics of usage almost begets despair of submitting evidence on any linguistic point worthy of notice in the light of his conception of necessary proof.

Dr. Hall had all the aggressive confidence of modesty adequately equipped; no man was more generous in extending the results of his researches to those who sought his aid; and no man was called on to suffer more and more undeservedly from ignorant or malicious misrepresentation. His principles were misinterpreted; his reservations and exclusions were ignored; his applications were perverted; in particular, his long residence abroad was turned to his reproach, and his discriminating remonstrances against some tendencies of his country's speech were alleged as constructive renegadism. Dr. Hall was always a loyal American, and after forty-six years' absence, died an American citizen. He always, by the first personal pronoun, identified himself with America and Americans, and measured even his social relations to Englishmen; his rebukes to his fellow-countrymen were accompanied with confessions of his own constant fear of defection

from the British standards which he accepted; no man could have resented more strongly the English habit of attributing to "Americanism" what were instances of revival or of dialect; nor could any man recognize more clearly the propriety and the dignity of proper and dignified local peculiarities of expression. Dr. Hall's own vocabulary was as extensive as his reading; and his aptness in its use, particularly in quaint phraseology and in archaic terms, always individualized, and always assessed at their true merit, the objects to which they were applied. His wit and humor should not be left out of account; and the comparisons with which he sometimes illuminated his designations were veritable impalements in the effigy of ridicule.

Of the several influences by which linguistic expression is variously held to be governed, Dr. Hall's support was, in general, given to "consentient" and "advertent" usage as the accepted guide; but, so far from discrediting the claims of "expedience," he expressly denies that the competent will ever conform their thoughts to the conventional types of the day: on the other hand, he warns the incompetent against the perils of independence; and he lays down certain canons for those who must venture on revivals or originalities. In other words, Dr. Hall is the apostle of freedom by precedent, with the responsibility for perilous licenses placed upon the adventurous. With mere logic or with mere formulated grammaticism, Dr. Hall, as an expounder, had no patience whatever; and he freely confessed to having prejudices of his own, by which many warrantable locations were deliberately avoided by him. Accordingly, Dr. Hall's purpose was not at all to direct writers and speakers to the one and only mode of expression under any given circumstances—an absurdity alien to his acute powers of reasoning—but altogether to warn self-constituted teachers and their credulous disciples against elevating their own habits and prepossessions into real rules of speech. This reciprocity of affirmative and negative functions is the only sure ground of mastery in any language—first, the establishment of certain unquestionable terms, meanings, and arrangements, as veritably attesting the genius of that language, and then

the wide range of correlative precedent, available or unavailable as the user may create its special justification. In this sphere of English philology, the philosophical grammarians and the historical grammarians, the logicians and the rhetoricians, are alike out of account; and Dr. Hall's work has not even, to any important extent, the need of their reinforcement for any purpose that he undertakes. He was not, to be sure, a technical grammarian; and there are accordingly some points that might have been enhanced in practical pedagogic cogency; but Dr. Hall's special services would probably have been obstructed by such a check on his spontaneity or even by the consciousness of its pertinence.

Dr. Hall's attitude towards authority in English usage is never left in doubt; he cites writers admittedly representing approved usage as adequate for his purpose, but with no desire of asserting their example as law; and he declines to be called the advocate of any word whose claims for respectful consideration he simply feels bound to vindicate. He expresses his creed in saying that

"it is not the proper province of him who interests himself in philology, to do much more than assemble facts, and discuss them in the light of sound principles. Of all dogmatism, where a position is not rigidly demonstrated, the sole appraisal consonant to justice is that it should count nothing." "It is the fluent, perspicuous and fearless English which is dictated by an enlightened and yet chastened sense of native freedom, and not the titubant, perplexed, nerveless, and hidebound English of half-educated, scruple-mongering, provincial pedantry, that a rational love of our mother-tongue would see inculcated and diffused."

Dr. Hall himself was a supreme authority with the authorities; and no man, unless he was hopelessly fatuous or finally desperate, attacked his exhibits or his conclusions more than once; and an examination of successive editions of some popular text books will demonstrate either the difference before and after Dr. Hall's treatment or the incurable obtuseness of some complacent sponsors for unreality. Earle and Whitney were not too great to utilize his services and scholarship; but it must be confessed that a certain "cynosure for an admiring coterie, in which he ruled as umpire and oracle" remained to the last,

so far as public confession went, serenely pachydermatous. Nor can it be denied that, at best, those who profited by his researches have too often ignored or scanted their obligations, or that those who combatted his conclusions have frequently failed to note his painstaking guardedness and scrupulous exactness in defining the scope of his special criticisms. Dr. Hall was the last man to vest himself with infallibility; yet, such was his apparently predestined superiority, that cavilling or contemptuous reference to his conclusions invariably recoiled upon his antagonists. Some of these must have suffered grievously in their enforced compromise between public conscience and private consciousness: all of them should have realized that, in view of the instability of language and its capricious relation to the will of man, even real inconsistencies and obscurities in different discussions, written at long intervals, sometimes in haste and generally to meet particular exigencies, in the midst of progressive investigations, especially when no duplicates were kept and no copyist employed, do not invalidate the claims of a man whose obvious purpose is truth. Dr. Hall recognized no "oil of inerrancy" except that compounded of "reason, logicalness, circumspection and subtilty;" and he would have scorned the honors, as he would have loathed the emoluments, of oracularity professedly warranted by turning over just so many pages of just so many authors.

Dr. Hall's diction and style have been harshly criticised by those who, feeling his retaliations, affected an unconcerned incapacity to understand his meaning. His diction was indeed anything but commonplace, and its terrors to impostors in language was the greater because they did not at once fully realize the classification to which they were summarily relegated: his style was artificial and self-conscious, and at times somewhat labored and over-weighted; but no one can discredit either the adequacy or the advantages of his restored and readjusted phraseology.

Teaching has many aspects; and, as Dr. Hall in his time has for English practically exhausted at least one of these, it should be a tempting privilege to follow the example of his fine spirit and employ the records of his

mission under the opportunities still open to true lovers of their mother-tongue and licensed curates of its transmission. In his own fellow-countrymen, indifference to this charge would imply not only base ingratitude to the champion of their institutions and their capacities, but the deepest insensibility to a heritage of achievement and inspiration worthy of their highest powers and warmest devotion. They honored him too late and too little in his life; let them at least salute his death with the benison of a cumulative immortality.

CASKIE HARRISON.

Brooklyn N. Y.

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#### BRIEF MENTION.

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*A History of English Romanticism in the Eighteenth Century* (by Henry A. Beers, New York, H. Holt & Co., 1899) can hardly be expected to possess much unity. The Romantic movement in England was not, strictly speaking, a movement at all, but rather the varied and spontaneous manifestation of a reaction from Augustan classicism. The rather loose form in which Professor Beers casts his book, consisting as it does of independent lectures, is doubtless the best form, although it sometimes involves repetition and a backward movement. For such a history Heine's definition of romanticism as a reproduction of the life and thought of the Middle Ages is manifestly too narrow; accordingly the term is broadened till it connotes the qualities characteristic of the Mediæval spirit irrespective of time or place.

Professor Beers is interesting, always; and the merit is no slight one in dealing with writers, many of whom have ceased to interest any but the historical critic. An introductory lecture on the pseudo-classical Augustans brings out more forcibly the service rendered by the imitators of Spenser in bringing back color and music into English verse. The interrelation of landscape gardening and the first mild nature-poetry of Thomson, Shenstone, and Dyer is developed in a chapter

entitled "The Landscape Poets." "The Miltonic Group," Collins, Gray, Mason, and the Wartons seized on the romantic element in Milton's early poems. *Il Penseroso* appealed to their love of low spirits, which found its most perfect expression in Gray's *Elegy*.

But the more strictly Mediæval revival began with the publication of Thomas Warton's *History of English Poetry from the Twelfth to the Sixteenth Century*. "The Gothic Revival" was initiated by the architectural diversions of Horace Walpole at Strawberry Hill, and by his crude romantic novel, *The Castle of Otranto*, the forerunner to Mrs. Radcliffe's more skillful work.

The chapter on "Percy and the Ballads," is an excellent popular treatment of the nature of the ballads, of the manner of their collection, and of their influence upon poetic style. MacPherson and Chatterton each receive a chapter; the controversy over the genuineness of "Ossian" is summarized, the genesis of the Rowley poems is explained. The volume closes with a chapter on "The German Tributary." The influence of the *Sturm und Drang* period of German romanticism upon Scott's early work is shown to have been healthy enough in its way, despite the melodramatic extravagance to which it led such a writer as "Monk" Lewis. The interdependence of English and German writers is admirably brought out in a short sketch of the German romantic movement. When English poets were too feeble to give much impetus to the new movement, Germany's greatest poet was arousing an enthusiasm for Shakespeare that must soon react upon the England of the new century.

Professor Beers excludes William Blake from his review because that poet's writings were without effect upon his contemporaries; Cowper and Burns do not fall under his definition of romanticism. Several slips may be noted: the London fire did not occur in 1664; "unbeknown" is hardly in reputable use. A companion study of English romanticism in the nineteenth century, which Professor Beers hopes soon to publish, will need no introduction to those who have enjoyed this very readable and suggestive book.